

Springfield Regional Human Rights Authority

Meeting Minutes

September 27, 2011

Members Present:

Debbie Weiner, Chairperson
Tara Dunning, Secretary
Jan Little, Vice Chairperson
Janet Shelton, Member
Megan Waldschmidt, Member

Members Absent:

James Bakunas, Member
Donna Ferguson, Member
Linda O'Rourke, Member
Stephanie Snyder, Member

Staff Present:

Michael J. Pintar, Coordinator

Guests:

None

Call to Order:

Chairperson Debbie Weiner recognized that a quorum was present and called the regular meeting of the Springfield Regional Human Rights Authority to order at 6:25 p.m. on Tuesday, September 27, 2011. The meeting was held at Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Center, Springfield, Illinois. Welcome and introductions were made.

Confidentiality Statement:

The Coordinator read the confidentiality statement which indicates that personally identifiable information will not be presented in public meetings in order to protect the privacy of those disabled persons on whose behalf the HRA conducts investigations.

Changes to the Agenda:

The Chairperson reviewed the agenda and asked for changes; no changes were requested.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the August 23, 2011 meeting were reviewed. **A motion was made by Janet Shelton to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Jan Little. Motioned carried.**

Communications:

The Coordinator discussed Governor Quinn's proposed closure of several DD facilities including Jacksonville Developmental Center.

New Business:

New complaints –

12-050-9005 – A consumer was admitted to a hospital several weeks ago and after a week of treatment that included counseling and group therapy was discharged. After discharge she committed a petty crime and was readmitted to the hospital. Now staff is

telling her that she will not be considered for discharge, in part because she refuses to take her medication. **Upon a motion by Jan Little and seconded by Tara Dunning, members voted to open a case for investigation.**

12-050-9006 – A consumer who is hospitalized is not allowed to have her property – including her cell phone. Also, she is not allowed anything by mouth, they are feeding her intravenously due to her medical condition but she would like a piece of hard candy. The hospital has her on one on one observation and she feels her rights are being violated because she is not allowed privacy to speak with her physician. A motion was made by Jan Little to open a case for investigation however, the motioned died for lack of a second. **A motion was made by Tara Dunning to not open the case for investigation. The motion was seconded by Megan Waldschmidt and passed with one opposed.**

12-050-9007 – A parent of an 11 year old child with Autism has filed a complaint that the child's new school is not following his previously successful IEP plan resulting in violent outbursts from the child and suspension. **Upon a motion by Janet Shelton, seconded by Megan Waldschmidt, the case will be open for investigation pending the outcome of an IEP meeting between the mother and school in the near future. Motion carried.**

12-050-9008 – A consumer states that facility staff is rude and verbally abusive and she wants a transfer to a less restricted environment but staff continues to tell her a bed is not available and will not give her any information about a possible transfer. She has contacted the OIG office previously to make a complaint but states OIG never substantiates her claims. **A motion was made by Megan Waldschmidt and seconded by Jan Little to open the case for investigation. Motion passed.**

Unfinished Business:

A motion was made by Janet Shelton and seconded by Jan Little to enter into closed session at 6:52 p.m. pursuant to Section 721 of the Guardianship and Advocacy Act and Section 42 of the Open Meetings Act to discuss confidential and potentially identifiable information.

A. Case Progress Reports:

11-050-9006 – Andrew McFarland Mental Health Center – case manager
11-050-9012 – Andrew McFarland Mental Health Center – stolen property
11-050-9017 – Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Center – NOR's
12-050-9001 – Andrew McFarland Mental Health Center – rape notification

B. Reports of Findings:

A motion was made by Janet Shelton and seconded by Jan Little to accept the written reports on these three cases as presented. Motion carried.

11-050-9014 – written report was reviewed
11-050-9018 – written report was reviewed
12-050-9003 – written report was reviewed

Upon a motion by Jan Little and seconded by Janet Shelton, the HRA returned to open session at 7:11 p.m.

C. Draft Reports of Findings:

12-050-9002 – a draft written report was reviewed. **A motion was made by Janet Shelton and seconded by Megan Waldschmidt to accept the written report pending review and any significant changes by HRA. Motion carried.**

C. Case Closures:

11-050-9013 – Jacksonville Developmental Center – alcohol

Announcements and Comments:

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 25, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at the Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Center.

Site Visits:

There are no site visits at this time.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tara Dunning, Secretary